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user interface to establish a communications path between (1) one of a plurality of computers connected to the video switch and (2) the user-input device and the connected display.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended and Claims 2-44 have been added herewith. The changes to Claim 1 and the addition of new Claims 2-44 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not introduce any new matter.

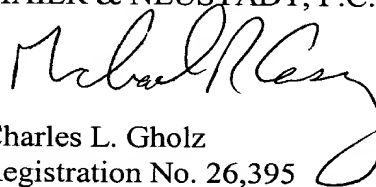
The specification was amended to correct a minor typographical error.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as Claim 1 of United States Patent No. 6,112,264. It is respectfully noted that this rejection is rendered moot in light of the amendments to Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace Paragraph 50 with the following new paragraph:

In the presently preferred embodiment of the invention, the digital 16.times.16 switches 182 are implemented using a pair of 16.times.8 digital switches as shown in FIG. 8. Each 16.times.16 switch comprises switches 210 and 216. The switch 210 has sixteen input lines 212 and eight output lines 214. The switch 216 has sixteen input lines 218 that are coupled to each of the input lines 212, and eight output lines 220. In the presently preferred embodiment of the invention, each of the 16.times.8 switches 210 and 216 are part numbers CD22M3494S[5]Q, manufactured by Harris.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A switching system comprising:

[a computer-side interface for simultaneously physically connecting to independent, dedicated cables of respective keyboard and analog video outputs of plural computers;

a user-side interface for physically connecting to a first set of independent, dedicated cables of a first keyboard and an analog video input of a first monitor;

an analog video receiving circuit, connected to the computer-side interface, for receiving analog video signals from one of the plural computers through the computer-side interface;

an analog video overlay image generating circuit, disposed between the computer-side interface and the user-side interface, for producing an analog overlay video signals internal to the switching system; and

an analog video overlay circuit, disposed between the computer-side interface and the user-side interface, for combining (1) a portion of the analog video signals received by the

analog video receiving circuit and (2) the analog overlay video signals generated internally to the switching system to form a combined analog signal that is output to the first monitor via the user-side interface.]

computer-side connectors including plural computer-side user input device connectors and plural computer-side video connectors for simultaneously physically connecting to independent, dedicated cables of respective user-input device inputs and analog video outputs of plural computers;

a first set of user-side connectors including a first user-side user-input device connector and a first user-side video connector for physically connecting to independent, dedicated cables of a first user-input device and an analog video input of a first monitor;

a first analog video receiving circuit interposed between the computer-side connectors and the first set of user-side connectors for receiving analog video signals from one of the plural computers through at least one of the computer-side connectors, and
a first analog video processing circuit, interposed between the computer-side connectors and the first set of user-side connectors, for selecting, for at least one sub-region of an image to be displayed on the first monitor, at least one of (1) a portion of the analog video signals received by the first analog video receiving circuit and (2) internally generated analog video signals, to form an output analog video signal that is output to the first monitor via the first user-side video connector.

2-44. (New)